

Week Ending Friday, May 23, 2003

Proclamation 7679—World Trade Week, 2003

May 16, 2003

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Trade expands prosperity, helps raise millions from poverty, and is an engine of economic growth within our Nation and around the world. Trade injects new energy and vitality into the global economy by fostering the exchange of ideas and innovations among people around the world. Free and open trade also helps promote peace and security. During World Trade Week, we renew our commitment to developing and implementing trade policies that create new opportunities and promote global economic growth.

My Administration is pursuing an ambitious trade agenda that is restoring America's leadership in the global trading system. We worked hard for the passage of the Trade Act of 2002, which reinstated Trade Promotion Authority after an 8-year lapse. Trade Promotion Authority re-established the ability of the United States to credibly negotiate comprehensive trade agreements by ensuring that agreements will be approved or rejected, by the Congress, but not amended. This gives other countries renewed confidence in their trade negotiations with the United States.

To extend the benefits of trade and to improve the lives of people in our Nation and around the world, my Administration continues to pursue global, regional, and bilateral trade agreements. Through the Doha Development Agenda negotiations at the World Trade Organization, the United States is seeking to strengthen the multilateral trading system, increase market access opportunities, and promote global development. Regionally, we are working to build on the suc-

cess of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the Free Trade Area of the Americas, which will expand free trade benefits throughout the Western Hemisphere. We are also encouraging the free flow of trade and investment in the Pacific among our partners in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. In addition, we are negotiating a free trade agreement with five Central American democracies and will soon begin free trade agreement negotiations with the Southern African Customs Union to help spur economic growth in these two regions. Bilaterally, I recently signed a historic free trade agreement with Singapore—the first of its kind between the United States and an Asian/Pacific country, and we are finalizing a similar agreement with Chile. Free trade agreement negotiations are also underway with Australia and Morocco.

In America, trade is also critical to maintaining our economic competitiveness in the global market. It has been estimated that one in eleven American jobs—over 12 million—are supported by exports of goods and services. In the 1990s, exports accounted for about one-quarter of our economic growth. Our Nation's two major trade agreements during this time, NAFTA and the Uruguay Round, provided consumers with a greater choice of goods at better prices, while raising living standards for a typical American family of four by up to \$2,000 a year.

My Administration is also providing assistance to help trade-impacted workers adapt to the challenge of international competition. The Trade Adjustment Assistance program helps trade-impacted workers gain or enhance job-related skills and find new jobs. The program provides eligible workers with up to 2 years of training, income support during training, job search assistance, and relocation allowances.

World trade allows all nations to share in the great economic, social, and political progress of our age and provides a foundation for a more peaceful and stable world. This week, we recognize the importance of free trade in promoting prosperity and freedom in the United States and around the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 18 through May 24, 2003, as World Trade Week. I encourage all Americans to observe this week with events, trade shows, and educational programs that celebrate the benefits of trade to our Nation and the global economy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 21. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

May 17, 2003

Good morning. May 17th is Armed Forces Day, when America honors the men and women who serve in every branch of the service. Here in the Oval Office, I'm joined by some distinguished Americans, eight members of the military who fought bravely during the battle of Iraq. All of them were wounded in battle and are recovering from their injuries. All of them have earned the respect and the gratitude of our Nation.

Americans are proud of every man and woman who has faced the risks of war in the cause of freedom. Many still face dangerous duty in Iraq and Afghanistan as they provide order and stability in liberated countries. Many are fighting on other fronts in the war against terror, and some brave Americans

have given their lives to protect our country and to keep the peace. Our whole Nation honors their memory, and our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones they left behind.

The world has seen the tremendous capabilities of the United States military. With fine allies at their side, American soldiers and sailors, airmen, and marines used advanced technology to gain historic victories in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unmanned Predator aircraft carried out bombing missions deep behind enemy lines, keeping more of our pilots out of harm's way. Satellites high above the Earth, at any time of day or night, provided detailed images of individual targets and whole battlefields. At least two-thirds of the bombs used by coalition forces in Iraq were precision-guided by lasers or global positioning satellites, compared with just 13 percent of the bombs we used in the 1991 Gulf war.

For all the contributions of technology, however, the battles of Iraq and Afghanistan were won by the skill and courage of well-trained, highly motivated men and women. In the recent fighting, marines and soldiers charged to Baghdad across 350 miles of hostile ground in one of the swiftest advances of heavy arms in history. Pilots flew through blinding sandstorms; soldiers and marines ran into the face of gunfire, at times ignoring their own injuries to save wounded comrades. Special Operations forces conducted daring raids to seize airfields and missile launch sites. Every branch of the service worked in united purpose and displayed the highest standards of professionalism and honor.

With the liberation of Iraq and Afghanistan, we have removed allies of Al Qaida, cut off sources of terrorist funding, and made certain that no terrorist network will gain weapons of mass destruction from Saddam Hussein's regime.

These two battles were important victories in the larger war on terror. Yet the terrorist attacks this week in Saudi Arabia, which killed innocent civilians from more than half a dozen countries, including our own, provide a stark reminder that the war on terror continues.